

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 2994

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER MANLEY

SUMMARY: INITIAL SUBSTANTIVE TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY ON AUGUST 21 COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING THE PM'S DEDICATION TO THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM AND DEMOCRACY, JAMAICA'S MARIHUANA PROBLEM AND OPERATION BUCCANEER, A POSSIBLE WASHINGTON VISIT, BAUXITE TALKS, CUBA, AND THE CARRIBBEAN IN THE THIRD WORLD CONTEXT. (MARIHUANA PROBLEM AND OPERATION BUCCANEER SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL)

1. I CALLED ON THE PM AT HIS HOUSE, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MY INITIAL CALL, WEDNESDAY EVENING AND HAD A FRANK, FRIENDLY, AND RELAXED CONVERSATION WITH HIM LASTING AN HOUR AND TEN MINUTES. NO ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT. THROUGHOUT HE EVIDENCED A WARM AND UNDERSTANDING PRO-US ATTITUDE

2. AFTER EXPRESSING SYMPATHY WITH OUR RECENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND HIS PLEASURE AT THEIR RESOLUTION, INCLUDING

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THE NOMINATION OF GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER AS VIC-PRESIDENT,

HE EXPLAINED AT LENGTH AND WITH ELOQUENCE HIS DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE TWO PARTY SYSTEM AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES. WHILE ADMITTING THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE IN HIS PARTY WHO HAD "FLIRTED" WITH THE IDEA OF A ONE-PARTY STATE, THEY DID NOT SPEAK FOR THE PARTY AND HAD BEEN UNREALISTICALLY INFLUENCED BY SOME OF THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCES WHICH WERE NOT APPLICABLE TO THE MORE EVOLVED CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. THESE HAD A LONG HISTORY OF FREEDOM OF INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION, RESPECT FOR LAW AND WELL-DEVELOPED PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES. HE SAID HE WISHED TO DENY CATEGORICALLY THAT HE HAD ANY INTENTION OF MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF AN AUTHORITY-TAIAN STATE. HIS DEFINITION OF SOCIALISM IMPLIED A "MANAGED" STATE BUT ARRIVED AT BY DEMOCRATIC METHODS. (COMMENT: THE PM WAS REACTING SHARPLY TO A COLUMN BY JOHN AKAR, FORMER SIERRA LEONE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, COPY POUCHED TO ARA. ILLUMINATING CONTINUED EXCHANGE BEING REPORTED SEPTEL).

3. WASHINGTON VISIT. MANLEY INDICATED INTEREST IN A POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO PRESENT HIS VIEWS ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE LDC'S TO THE PRESS AND HOPEFULLY TO HAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT FORD. I SAID THAT I THOUGHT THIS WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE RIGHT NOW BUT THAT LATER ON IT MIGHT BE ARRANGED ON A LOW-PROFILE BASIS WITH, SAY, AN ADDRESS TO THE PRESS CLUB AND OFFICE VISITS. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE FINE AND THAT HE LOATHED PROTOCOL. (COMMENT: I HAVE IN MIND THAT BAUXITE TALKS ARE IN PROGRESS AND THAT VISIT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IF THEY GO WELL.)

4. BAUXITE. I ASKED THE PM IF HE KNEW OF ANY PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ONGOING BAUXITE DISCUSSIONS THAT COULD NOT BE RESOLVED ON A NEGOTIATED BASIS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THEY WERE GOING WELL WITH REVERE AT PRESENT AND THAT HE FORESAW NONE. (COMMENT: SEE SEPTEL ON CURRENT STATE OF PLAY INDICATING AREAS OF POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY.) I OUTLINED THE PARAMETERS OF THE ASST SEC'Y ENDERS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY AND SUBSEQUENT TESTIMONY BY JOHN HARPER OF ALCOA, REMINDED HIM OF MY COMMENTS ON OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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INITIAL MEETING THAT THERE WOULD BE UNFORESEEN CONSEQUENCES OF THE UNILATERAL ACTION OF THE GOJ ON BAUXITE TAXES, AND SAID THAT WHILE I PERSONALLY WAS NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY ABOUT THE NECESSITY TO TIE U.S. LOANS TO BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS, CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, AMONG OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, REQUIRED THIS WHERE CONTRACTS WERE ABROGATED. TO MY SURPRISE HE DID NOT REACT EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE HAD TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR

IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY HIS ACTIONS WERE IN NO WAY INTENDED TO DENY ACCESS BY THE U.S. TO A STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT MATERIAL. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT FORM IT SHOULD TAKE, BUT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO FORMALIZE THIS UNDERTAKING IF IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DESIRABLE. (COMMENT: HE DID, I THINK, SUGGEST THIS BEFORE, AND IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED A PLOY TO SEPARATE THE U.S.G. INTEREST FROM THAT OF THE ALUMINUM COMPANIES. HOWEVER, AT SOME STAGE WE MIGHT FIND SUCH AN AGREEMENT USEFUL, TO BLUNT THE TENDENCY OF RAW MATERIAL PRODUCERS TO USE THEIR RESOURCES AS A POLITICAL WEAPON.)

5. CUBA. THE PM SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVING A LOT OF THOUGHT RECENTLY TO CUBA. (ON TUESDAY HE GAVE PARTING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO CUBA, LLOYD BARNETT.) HE REFERRED BACK TO HIS TRIP TO ALGIERS WITH CASTRO. HE SAID THAT HE REALIZED AT THE TIME THAT THIS WOULD HAVE ADVERSE POLITICAL ONSEQUENCES DOMESTICALLY AND IN THE U.S. BUT FELT IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME BETTER ACQUANINTED WITH CASTRO, WHICH HE FELT WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. HE HAD BEEN, AND STILL WAS , GREATLY CONCERNED WITH THE RUSSIAN PRESENCE "90 MILES AWAY ON MY NAKED BACK." HE HAD SUGGESTED TO CASTRO THAT THE TIME WAS NEAR WHEN HE SHOULD BURY THE HATCHET WITH THE U.S. HE SAID THAT CASTRO REPLIED THAT THE TIME HAD NOT YET COME BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVING IT CONSIDERATION. I POINTED OUT TO PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC THAT THERE WERE PROBABLY A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT CASTRO WOULD HAVE TO SAY AND DO BEFORE THE HATCHET COULD BE PROPERLY INTERRED. MANLEY INDICATED HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THIS AND HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THE MANY DIFFICULTIES CASTRO HAD GIVEN TO THE U.S. AND THE AFFAIR OF THE RUSSIAN MISSILES, WHICH HAD ALSO GIVEN HIM MUCH CONCERN. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD NOTED A GROWING SENSE OF NATIONALISM IN CUBA AND A VERY DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE AMONG THE PEOPLE THAN WHAT HE UNDERSTOOD PREVAILED UNDER SOVIET COMMUNISM. HE HAD BEEN PURSUING A DELIBERATE COURSE OF SENDING JAMAICANS ON TRIPS AND MISSIONS TO CUBA, INCLUDING AGRICULTURISTS, MANUFACTUERS, EDUCATIONALISTS, AND BUSINESSMEN, TALKING WITH THEM PERSONALLY ON THEIR RETURN, AND THAT THEY ALL REPORTED A SPIRIT OF ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION WHICH WAS QUITE REMARKABLE. (NOTE: IT MAY BE THAT MANLEY IS LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A POSSIBLE TRIP TO CUBA OR OTHER INITIATIVE. HE DID NOT ASK ABOUT THE CURRENT U.S. POSITION.) I TOLD HIM THAT THIS WAS INTERESTING INFORMATION AND THAT THE RIGHT KIND OF NATIONALISM ON CUBA'S PART WOULD NO DOUBLT BE GRATIFYING TO THE U.S. AND THAT IT WAS TO BE HOPED THAT THE PROJECTED FAVORABLE

BALANCE OF TRADE FOR CUBA THIS YEAR MIGHT LESSEN HER
SOVIET DEPENDENCE. THERE WAS APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF THIS
PROJECTION AND FOUND IT OF GREAT INTEREST. GERARD

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